

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 TRSE-00

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R 160953Z JAN 75 ZFG

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2538

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 0138

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VN, HU

SUBJ: HUNGARIAN PRESS COMMENT ON VIETNAM

1. SUMMARY: AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF SIMPLY QUOTING TASS REPORTS AND DRV STATEMENTS, THE HUNGARIAN PRESS JAN 14 BEGAN INDEPENDENT COMMENTARY. AS WOULD BE EXPECTED, THE THIEU GOVERNMENT IS BLAMED FOR INTENSIFICATION OF FIGHTING IN VIETNAM. A LEAD EDITORIAL IN NEPSZABADSAG STATES THE U.S. BY ITS ACTIONS ASSOCIATES ITSELF WITH THE THIEU GOVERNMENT AND THAT U.S. MCNITARY PRESENCE, EVEN IN INDIRECT FORM, COMPLICATES SITUATION. AN MTI DISPATCH REFERS TO JAN 13 U.S. NOTE ON VIETNAM AS TRYING TO SHIFT BLAME FOR VIETNAM FIGHTING TO THE DRV. END SUMMARY.

2. JAN 14 MTI REPORT ON VIETNAM SUMMARIZES LATES EVENTS CITING THAT U.S. HAS ACKNOWLEDGED U.S. RECON FLIGHTS OVER NORTH VIETNAM AND THAT THIS IS SERIOUS VIOLATION PARIS AGREEMENTS. ARTICLE MENTIONS U.S. MARINES IN
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OKINAWA ARE ON ALUT,HNHAT CARRIER MIDWAY HAS SAILED

FROM JAPAN, AND THAT ANOTHER GROUP OF SEVENTH FLEET
LED BY NUCLEAR CARRIER ENTERPRISE IN INDIAN OCEAN MKHX

3. WHILE MTI REFERS TO AEMS. NOTE ON VIETNAM TO FOUR
OTHER PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF SECURITY COUNCIL,
THE ICCS, AND SYG WALDHEIM, NEITHER SUBSTANCE OF NOTE
NOR FACT THAT IT WAS GIVEN TO GOH AS AN ICCS MEMBER
IS DISCUSSED. HOWEVER, MTI OPINES THAT THROUGH THIS
NOTE U.S. TRIES TO SHIFT RESPONSIBILITY FOR FIGHTING
TO THE DRV.

4. LEADING FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL IN PARTY DAILY
NEPSZABADSAG TITLED "AIRPLANE SHADOWS OVER VIETNAM"
WRITTEN BY ROBERT BOGNAR, MINOR FREE-LANCE JOURNALIST,
ASKS AND ANSWERS JUST WHAT IS HAPPENING IN VIETNAM.
ONE PART OF ANSWER IS THAT CERTAIN IMPERIALIST CIRCLES
STILL CONSIDER THIEU REGIME AS CHIEF MEANS AGAINST
LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN INDOCHINA. THERE ARE SERIOUS
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND INFLATION IN VIETNAM AND THIEU
SEEKS RICE NOT THROUGH HARVEST BUT BY ROBBING LIBERATED
TERRITORIES. THIS RICE WAR IS PARTICULARLY BRUTAL.
BUT AS A RESULT OF INCREASED AGGRESSION BY THIEU,
MILITARY BALANCE HAS DEFINITELY GONE TO THE PRG.

5. BOGNAR CONTINUES THAT, ALTHOUGH ACCORDING TO SOME
REPORTS U.S. HAS CONTACTS WITH SAIGON POLITICIANS WHO
OPPOSE THIEU, U.S. BY ITS ACTIONS ASSOCIATES ITSELF
WITH THE REGIME. THIS SUPPORT OF THIEU IS ACCOMPANIED
BY RISING PANIC SEEN THROUGH RECON FLIGHTS OVER SOUTH
AND NORTH VIETNAM AND FLEET MOVEMENTS IN CHINA SEA.
AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE, EVEN IN INDIRECT FORM,
COMPLICATES SITUATION.

6. COMMENT: PREDICTABLY, INCREASE IN FIGHTING IN
VIETNAM OVER PAST DAYS HAS RESULTED IN EVER-INCREASING
COMMENT ON VIETNAM IN HUNGARIAN PRESS. WHILE
COMMENTARY PLACES PRINCIPAL BLAME ON THIEU GOVERNMENT
IT SCORES U.S. FOR CONTINUED ASSOCIATION WITH THIEU.
SO FAR NEITHER SIGNIFICANT GOVERNMENT NOR PARTY
FIGURES HAVE VENTURED WRITTEN COMMENT ON RECENT EVENTS
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IN VIETNAM. WE BELIEVE PRESS TO DATE SIMPLY REFLECTS
HUNGARY'S DUES TO SOCIALIST SOLIDARITY.
PEDERSEN

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